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(54) Title: DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION OF EUBACTERIAL TAXA USING A HYBRIDIZATION ASSAY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular *Staphylococcus aureus*, using new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacer) region. The present invention relates also to said new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS region, between the 16S and 23S ribosomal ribonucleic acid (rRNA) or rRNA genes, to be used for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular of *S. aureus*, in a biological sample. It relates also to nucleic acid primers to be used for the amplification of said spacer region of *Staphylococcus* species in a sample.

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